

## **Well-Child Check-ups (EPSDT)**

### **What is EPSDT?**

The purpose of the EPSDT program is to find children with actual or potential health problems and to screen, diagnose and treat the problems before they become permanent, lifelong disabilities. The program also offers preventive services to children on Medicaid who are under age 21.

### **What is the difference between an EPSDT screening visit and a regular doctor visit?**

Certain EPSDT screenings are for “well-child” check-ups. However, an EPSDT screening visit or check-up may also be performed for a suspected medical, dental, vision, hearing or psychological problem so a referral can be issued for further diagnosis and treatment. When a screening visit is done for this purpose, the 14 doctor office visits will be “saved” for acute illnesses. This allows children to get more covered doctor visits than the 14 allotted visits.

### **Do I go to my Patient 1<sup>st</sup> doctor for an EPSDT (screening) visit?**

It depends. All Patient 1<sup>st</sup> Primary Medical Providers (PMPs) are required to provide EPSDT screenings, and many of them do that for their patients. If the PMP does not provide this service, they are required to sign an agreement with another provider to perform EPSDT screenings. This may be done at a clinic or other office. The Patient 1<sup>st</sup> doctor is required to record information about these screening visits in their patient records.